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intervals, if it is to grow properly." Fortunately the youngsters are not likely to read the book. The American birth rate is satisfactory, although it has decreased from over five to three and a half in the past forty years. Better care and understanding of children have given us and other leading nations an accompanying increase in population. Dr. Hutchinson asserts that the American baby of to-day is the superior to any other baby in weight, length, and vitality, and this advantage is retained by the American school child.

The modern mother, particularly the American mother, is not a traitor to her family and her race, as is so often charged by eugenic alarmists. Judged by the "real and supreme test of any civilization the production of strong children," the modern mother is the best the world has ever produced, all of which is very gratifying to national pride; the disregard of controverting facts should be charged to emphasis or enthusiasm.

The idea introduced in the discussions of eyes and ears, that these necessary organs wear out before we are ready to dispense with them because they are designed by nature for only forty or fifty years' use and hygiene and sanitation have prolonged the average age to seventy, is not likely to find approval in the face of present knowledge. Nor again, when it is stated that an examination of the skulls of mound builders and American Indian tribes has shown that every known disease and deformity of the teeth which exists to-day existed hundreds of years ago, and that our teeth are as good as those of any race at any time. Current dental knowledge does not bear out the claim. One of the leading dentists of the country, also a scientist, says: "Such sweeping statements are unfair. It has been my good fortune to examine the skulls of different early peoples, here and abroad. While it is possible to occasionally find a decayed tooth and a deformity in the dental arch, they are not of the character observed in modern civilization—due to arrest of development of face and jaws."

Written for those who realize what a difficult job it is "to be a daddy," it would be a very ignorant or an extremely wise parent who could not profit by its reading.

A. H. YODER.

New York School of Philanthropy.

Johnson, Amandus. *The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware: Their History and Relation to the Indians, Dutch and English, 1638-1664.* Two volumes. Pp. xxxii, 897. Price, \$6.00. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1911.

Two points are especially noteworthy on examination of Dr. Johnson's work; its documentation and the close mastery of detail. In order to elicit in full the truth and to write an exhaustive history of his subject he has spared no pains and has left no stone unturned in his keen search for material. It is safe to say that few investigators have come to the writing of a subject with such thoroughness of preparation, and that few works are based upon a surer foundation of authoritative documentary evidence. Dr. Johnson tells us in his preface that he made "three trips to Sweden, two to Holland and England, and one to Finland, in search of documents and

materials," and further, that he "has examined and read every document on the subject known to exist." His researches ranged from the material in the various archives at Stockholm, where he gathered the bulk of his material, to the University Library at Lund, the University Library and the Archives of the Consistory at Upsala, the Royal Archives at the Hague, and other depositories; thence across the channel to the British Museum and Public Record Office at London, and the Bodleian at Oxford. Neither has he neglected the material close at hand, in the Library of Congress, the Libraries of the Historical Societies of Pennsylvania and New York, and in other places. He has also familiarized himself with the source material in print and with the authoritative secondary writers on his subject. Approximately twenty-three hundred foot-notes, some of considerable length, bear ample witness to the thoroughness of his searches and the patience of his labor.

The history of a few Swedish settlements, which never numbered over a few hundred colonists and whose existence as a distinct Swedish colony lasted only a quarter of a century, is set forth carefully and with great elaboration of detail in nearly nine hundred pages of royal octavo size. One is inclined to wonder with the author whether so slender a colony in point of time and numbers deserves so much space and fullness of detail. But the work as it stands is justified. It has a distinctly local interest, setting forth carefully the manners and morals of the Swedish settlers, their political and social characteristics, and has a value from a genealogical point of view. But it has a wider interest. The book elucidates in a clear manner the relations of the Swedes with their neighbors in America, such as the Indians, the Dutch in New Netherlands and on the Delaware, the English in Virginia and Maryland and from far off New England. These relations also assume an international importance, bringing the Dutch, English and Swedes into conflict for commercial and territorial dominion in America. Neither has Dr. Johnson made the mistake, which so many of our writers on the colonies have made, of forgetting that the relation between the colony and mother country was intimate. The author devotes ninety pages, based largely upon original investigation, setting forth in an able manner the political, social and economic conditions in Sweden during the period preceding and during the colonizing movement, in order to elucidate the conditions under which colonization took place, the motives which actuated the project in America, and the methods under which the settlements were made. Such an account is of general value because of the light it throws on the European backgrounds of empire building in America. A few words as to organization of his material will throw some light on the treatment of his theme.

The work is divided into five books. Book I is devoted to a Swedish background of colonization during the period 1607-1660. Each of the following books is subdivided into two parts, one dealing with colonizing activities in the home country during a natural period, and the other with the activities of the colonists during the same time. This method of treatment not alone avoids confusion, but it has the added merit of making clear the interrelation and interaction of the colony and mother country, matters of great importance in the history of colonial policies.

The appendixes, covering some ninety pages, include brief biographies of the important persons connected with the colony, such as Papegoja, Printz, Ridder, Rising among the colonial officials, Oxenstierna, Brahe, Fleming and Spring among the Swedish statesmen; a list of the officers, soldiers, sailors, servants and settlers in the colony; documents and translation of documents, being largely instructions to the colonial officials, and a list of the preparations of the various expeditions to New Sweden. The work contains numerous illustrations, reproductions of MSS., pictures of the principal actors, and cuts of the houses, utensils, etc., of the settlers. There are six excellent maps, two of which, drawn by Dr. Johnson, are valuable as showing the territory and settlements of the Swedes.

The bibliography is exceptionally good, serving as a guide to the material, manuscript, printed collections of sources, and secondary works. The index is complete and the make-up of the book is splendid.

The work is a distinct contribution to our knowledge, and Dr. Johnson is to be congratulated on the excellence of his work.

W. T. Root.

University of Wisconsin.

King, F. H. *Farmers of Forty Centuries.* Pp. ix, 441. Price, \$2.50. Madison, Wis.: Mrs. F. H. King, 1911.

The appreciators of things economic are but few, and those who appreciate and know agriculture are yet fewer. It is, therefore, a matter of congratulation that a scientific agriculturist has at last gone to the Orient and come back to tell and explain what he saw of Oriental agriculture along the Pacific littoral in a five-months' trip. Professor King has left us a valuable book and it is to be regretted that he did not have time to extend his studies to the interior parts of the Mongolian lands.

In the preface Liberty H. Bailey says: "For the most part, authorship of agricultural travel is yet undeveloped. The spirit of scientific inquiry must now be taken into this field, and all earth-conquest must be compared and the results be given to the people that work. Such is Professor King's book.

"It is the writing of a well-trained observer who went forth not to find diversion or to depict scenery and common wonders, but to study the actual conditions of life of agricultural peoples. We in North America are wont to think that we may instruct all the world in agriculture, because our agricultural wealth is great and our exports to less favored peoples have been heavy; but this wealth is great because our soil is fertile and new, and in large acreage for every person. We have really only begun to farm well. The first condition of farming is to maintain fertility. This condition the Oriental peoples have met, and they have solved it in their way. We may never adopt particular methods, but we can profit vastly by their experience. With the increase of personal wants in recent time, the newer countries may never reach such density of population as have Japan and China; but we must nevertheless learn the first lesson in the conservation of natural resources, which are the resources of the land. This is the message that Professor King brought home from the East."